

Claims

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- 1. A clamp (1) comprising two arms (3, 4) with gripping tips in the form of two jaws (5, 6) for supporting and positioning a superelastic osteosynthesis clip (2), said osteosynthesis clip (2) comprising a web (23) from which two flanges (21, 22) intended to be inserted into two portions of bone emerge, said clamp (1) being characterized in that it comprises:
 - a first means (11) for preventing jaws (5, 6) of each arm (3, 4) from being opened in order to prevent clip (2) from opening beyond a point at which the angle between flanges (21, 22) and web (23) is greater than 90°;
- a second means (9, 10) for preventing jaws (5, 6) from being closed in order to prevent clip (2) from closing beyond a point at which the angle between flanges (21, 22) and the web is substantially 90°;
- 2. A clamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that first means (11) consists of a component separately mounted on one of arms (3, 4).
 - 3. A clamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that first means (11) consists of a protuberance on one of arms (3, 4).
- 4. A clamp as claimed in either claim 2 or 3, characterized in that first means (11) comes into contact with opposite arm (3, 4) in order to prevent opening of jaws (5, 6).
 - 5. A clamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that second means (9, 10) comprises a component (8) separately mounted on one of arms (3, 4) and comprising at least one tooth that cooperates with a sharp edge on opposite arm (3, 4).
 - 6. A clamp as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that component (8) can swivel relative to arm (3, 4) on which it is mounted.
- 7. A clamp as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the two arms (3,4) comprise an elastic return means making it possible to keep them apart.



- 8. A clamp as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that first means (11) is adjustable so as to allow variation in the extent of over-opening of clip (2).
- 9. A clamp as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that second means (9,
 10) is adjustable so as to allow parallel positioning of flanges (21, 22) of clip (2) depending on the size of its web (23).
 - 10. A clamp as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that, for a superelastic osteosynthesis clip which has a deformation curve as a function of stress having a line B-C that represents opening of said clip and a line C-B'-A' that represents its closing, over-opening of said clip by first means (11) corresponds substantially to portion C-C' of the curve where C' corresponds to intersection of the tangent lines between the return plateau, closure B'-A' and the fall from C.

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